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LETTER DATED 30 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the final communiqué approved by the meeting of the ad hoc Committee of West African Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the situation in Liberia, held at Lomé on 26 August 1999.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Roland Y. KPOTSRA

99-24960 (E) 070999 070999

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Meeting of the ad hoc Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the situation in Liberia held at Lomé, 26 August 1999

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. At the initiative of His Excellency, Gnassingbé Eyadéma, President of the Togolese Republic and current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and within the framework of normal consultations on peacekeeping, security and stability in the subregion, an Ad Hoc Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs met in Lomé on 26 August 1999.

2. The Committee considered the situation in Liberia, following the recent attack on that ECOWAS Member State.

3. The following Member States were represented at the meeting:

- Burkina Faso
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Republic of Ghana
- Republic of Guinea
- Republic of Liberia
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Sierra Leone
- Togolese Republic

4. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary participated in the meeting, which was also attended by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to Liberia.

5. The Joint Togo/Nigeria fact-finding mission to Guinea and Liberia under the leadership of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo presented a report to the Ministers. The Ministers of the two sister countries also briefed the meeting on the situation.

6. The Ministers exchanged views on the situation in Liberia in the light of the information provided.

7. The Ministers strongly condemned the attack by Liberian dissidents, which threatens the peace and security of Liberia and could destabilize the subregion and mar the relations of good neighbourliness existing between the two Member States.

8. The Ministers demanded that the dissidents desist forthwith from further criminal activities. They agreed that no Member State should give them any form of support.

9. They called on the international community to condemn the attack and to cooperate with ECOWAS and the two countries to take measures to prevent and discourage any further subversive activity that could destabilize the subregion.

10. Furthermore, they underscored the need for the immediate re-establishment of an environment of peace, security and trust between Liberia and Guinea.

11. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the great restraint exercised by Guinea and Liberia, which made it possible to avoid a conflict between the two Member States.

12. They expressed satisfaction with the measures that had been taken to ensure security at the borders and commended the initiatives taken by ECOWAS to find negotiated solutions to the crisis.

13. The Ministers agreed to establish a commission comprising Liberia, Guinea and ECOWAS in order to find solutions to common security problems threatening the peace and stability of the two sister countries.

14. The Ministers stressed the need for the two countries to resume dialogue with a view to promoting understanding and cooperation. In this regard, the Ministers recommended that the Heads of State of Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone facilitate an early meeting of the two Presidents.

15. Consequently, the Ministers called on Guinea and Liberia to observe the relevant provisions of the ECOWAS Treaty and the Protocol on Non-Aggression, signed in Lagos on 22 April 1978.

16. The Ministers expressed sincere appreciation to the Republic of Guinea for the invaluable efforts it has been making by welcoming and providing shelter for refugees and other persons displaced as a result of the conflicts in the subregion. They called on all refugees to be law-abiding and to refrain from any subversive activity. They appealed to the international community to provide every assistance to Guinea.

17. The Ministers also appealed to the international community to provide appropriate assistance to Liberia to enable it to address the humanitarian crisis created by the armed attack on Lofa County.

18. Furthermore, in accordance with decision A/DEC.11/10/98 of the twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, they urged the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS to do everything possible to ensure the speedy

implementation of the ECOWAS Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security in the subregion.

19. The Chairman of the meeting and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Togo, Joseph Kokou Koffigoh, briefed the meeting on the situation in Sierra Leone and on the first meeting of the Implementing Committee on the Lomé Peace Agreement signed by the Sierra Leonean parties on 7 July 1999.

20. At the end of the meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of brotherhood and mutual understanding, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs expressed their sincere gratitude to His Excellency Gnassingbé Eyadéma, President of the Togolese Republic and current Chairman of ECOWAS, for the commendable initiative he had taken in convening the meeting.

21. The Ministers also expressed their deep gratitude to the Government and people of Togo for the warm hospitality extended to them and for the excellent facilities made available to them.